

Free Assessment Tool

Students who struggle with spelling and phonemic awareness will avoid writing words they are unsure about spelling. Consequently, when we review the writing, they DO produce, we do not obtain an accurate assessment of which sounds, letters, and phonic rule patterns are a problem for them. To get around this, use a word level assessment tool. “Reading Sound Strategies” has a comprehensive tool for three levels of syllables and all the sounds and letters with a selection of basic phonic rules for one syllable words and the -le syllable.

Give this assessment as you would a spelling test. Read the word, use it in a sentence and ask the student to write it the best way they know how. This is not a test. It is a way for me to know what you already know so I can only teach you what you need to learn. The words chosen are not commonly used by children under 9 with the idea that we do not want to ask them to write words they may have memorized.

Word	Used in a sentence	Sound & Phonic Patterns to Review
1. boss	He is the boss	[floss rule, short ‘o’; direction for b/d]
2. seep	The water began to seep into the room.	[long e]
3. dice	Most games have dice.	[b/d, final e and the -ce rule ; direction for b/d]
4. fed	He fed the dog.	[short ‘e’]
5. gap	There is a gap between the fences.	[short ‘a’]
6. zit	She has a zit on her nose.	[short ‘i’ and s/z]
7. jut	The board will jut out from the fence a little.	[short ‘u’ and ‘j’]
8. haze	There is a dark haze over the city.	[long ‘a,’ z’ and final e rule]
9. cute	The kitten is cute.	[long ‘u’ and final e]
10. wove	He wove a placemat with paper strips.	[long ‘o’ and final e]
11. slump	Sit up, do not slump!	[nasal, -mp and liquid ‘l’]
12. crack	The wall has a crack.	[-ck rule and cr- blend]
13. prize	You win the prize!	[‘z’, long ‘i’ with final e and pr- blend]
14. smoke	I smell smoke.	[nasal ‘m’ and long ‘o’ with final e – sm- blend]
15. strips	Here are the strips of paper.	[3 sound blend ‘str’ short l and final blend ‘ps’]
16. clunk	I heard the engine go ‘clunk.’	[nasal in final ‘k’ blend and short ‘u’]
17. stink	Oh my, does that ever stink!	[nasal in final ‘l’ blend and short ‘i’]
18. flake	There is a flake of snow on your nose.	[long a with final e and liquid blend fl-]
19. brute	The dog is a rather large brute, isn’t he?	[b/d ; br- blend, long ‘u’ t/d for voiced and voiceless sounds and final e rule]
20. spend	Will you spend time on the beach?	[sp- blend, short ‘e’ and final nasal blend -nd]
21. wave	The wave washed over the sand.	[‘w’ ; long ‘a’ with final e, and ‘v’]

